



# **Society for American Soccer History Newsletter (Summer, 2025)**



## **Message from the President**

Since our Spring 2025 issue, SASH has started a historical American soccer footage release campaign. So far, twenty-three clips from 1921 through 1960 have been posted on the SASH YouTube channel with more on the way. Announcements on the releases have been made on SASH social media channels, including the new SASH accounts on [Bluesky](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) (you can find links to all SASH social media channels at the bottom of this newsletter). The response to the campaign has exceeded expectations, with views so far on X (including supporting posts by Men in Blazers!) at 146,526 views combined, giving SASH incredible reach and impact. I encourage you to follow SASH on your preferred social media platform and to like and repost SASH announcements to help extend our reach even further.

As we progress with these archival digitization projects, [we have launched an ambitious fundraiser](#) to help support the costs and prepare additional material that will continue to make SASH a hub for the visual history of American soccer.

New opportunities are now available for volunteers with the creation of Recruitment and Archives subcommittees. We've also launched a new project focused on developing our content and engaging with membership at the same time: a crowdsourced calendar of American soccer history. This online database will be an open link to members to help us build a collective database of key events in US soccer history. In turn, this will help serve our communication strategy in curating content in advance and around major anniversaries in the future.

We continue to work on scheduling SASH Sessions. Unfortunately, several planned sessions for spring fell through. We know these sessions play an important part in bringing together the SASH community. We are working hard to prepare a new round of SASH Sessions, Research Happy Hours, and Writing Sessions for the second half of 2025 and into 2026.

Finally, a word of thanks and appreciation for Roger Allaway. Retiring after a quarter-century of service maintaining the National Soccer Hall of Fame eligibility records, [Roger was honored during a Special Recognition ceremony](#) at the NSHOF Class of 2025 ceremony in May. Roger laid the groundwork for so much of the history of American soccer written in the last twenty years. Be sure to check out his [Archives Room column on the SASH website](#), which reproduces essays he originally published on Big Soccer on the first and third Wednesday each month.

# SASH Releases Historical Soccer Footage

As part of the Society's ongoing efforts to enrich the visual history of soccer in the US, SASH began releasing historical American soccer footage from 1921 through 1960. Twenty-three clips have been released since June 16.

- [The release campaign began with what is now the earliest surviving footage of soccer being played in the US](#), a friendly match between San Francisco's Italia Virtus club and a team from the visiting Italian Navy cruiser RM *Libia* during the ship's visit to San Francisco in November 1921. The footage was identified and licensed from the archives of Cineteca di Bologna and comes from the first publicly released film directed by legendary American filmmaker Frank Capra.
- [The campaign continued](#) with eleven clips from 1941 through 1960. Six clips from the National Archive's Universal Newsreels collection were digitized for SASH by Colorlab in Maryland. Five clips were donated by the George and Peggy Brown Collection. The campaign includes the earliest known footage of indoor soccer in the US and international friendlies featuring all star sides against international clubs such as Liverpool, Manchester United, and Inter Milan, as well as the first International Soccer League Final. The footage was filmed at Madison Square Garden, Randalls Island, Yankee Stadium, Ebbets Field, and the Polo Grounds.
- [July began with the release of five clips](#) from the George and Peggy Brown Collection consisting of color home movie footage of German American League matches played in the mid 1950s at Metropolitan Oval, Eintracht Oval, and Zeraga Oval.
- [Next came six Fox Movietone newsreel clips](#) from the 1920s acquired from the Moving Images Research Collection at University of South Carolina, including footage of the 1924 US Open Cup final, the first official USMNT international played in the US (USA-Canada in 1925), and the first ever soccer footage in the world shot with sound in 1927.

All of the footage can be viewed on the [SASH YouTube channel](#). Additional footage from 1933 and 1949 will be released soon. Please support our efforts to enrich the visual history of soccer in the US by making a tax-deductible contribution to the [SASH Historical American Soccer Footage Campaign](#).



# SASH Members in Action

- On June 14 in Belfast at the International Football History Conference (also known as FootyCon), SASH Treasurer George Kioussis presented a paper titled "All for a Little Round Ball": The United States and Transnational Referee Networks, ca 1962".
- At a home match on June 25 St. Louis City Soccer Club celebrated the 75th anniversary of the USA's 1-0 World Cup upset of England, and the five starters in the game from St. Louis. SASH board member Dave Lange helped the club gather facts and photos, participated in pregame ceremonies, and appeared on an episode for the team's podcast, *The City Voice (From The Hill To Brazil with Dave Lange)*, Lange also appeared in two local newscasts and in an interview with [goal.com](http://goal.com) along with Ty Keough, son of 1950 World Cup player and NSHOFer Harry Keough.



- Relatedly, you may recall from [the Summer 2024 newsletter](#) that, at the request of the NSHOF, SASH VP James Brown and board member Dave Lange provided help for a community mural project in the Cuggiono area outside of Milan, Italy. Unveiled in June, the mural panels honor players of Italian descent on the 1950 USMNT. You can view video of the unveiling at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgb9TX9I3FE>.
- SASH membership on the NSHOF Committees continues and will renew with their important work for the 2026 class. Thanks to Beau Dure, Michael Saunders, and Zach Bigalke for their continued commitment.
- SASH members have been supporting the World War I Museum and Memorial's efforts to organize an exhibit about soccer and the Great War. Museum curator and SASH member Christopher Warren recently hosted a discussion with former SASH president Tom McCabe, James Brown, and John Auld, the great nephew of NSHOFer Any Auld.

# Recent Research Inquiries Addressed by SASH

- Assisted someone looking for information about Dallas Tornado
- Assisted a South African researcher regarding the Atlanta Chiefs/Kaizer Motuang
- Assisted a SASH member regarding records of USMNT matches against club sides
- Assisted a Welsh researcher regarding information about H. Edgar Lewis
- Assisted someone looking for information about an unidentified New York team on which two family members played in the 1920s
- Assisted a player nominated for the USWNT list in 1983 before the official debut of the team in 1985
- Assisted a SASH member regarding the availability of *American League News/American League Soccer News*, a prime SASH digitization target
- Assisted someone who owns a picture from 1892 of New Rochelle FC looking for information about the team
- Connected a teacher of three 5th grade students making a podcast about Wisconsin soccer history to Brian D. Bunk, who was interviewed by the students

## American Soccer History Timeline Project

What moments in US soccer history will you always remember? Help SASH preserve these events with our new Timeline Project. Whether a major event by one of the national teams or a seemingly minor moment at the amateur or youth level, we want all the stories that SASH members think are critical to telling the story of soccer across the fifty states. Visit the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/kMEvzmGBRWbChZz3A> to submit all your favorite events to help tell the comprehensive story of US soccer history today.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Recruitment Committee: Contact Patrick Sullivan at [psullivan3070@gmail.com](mailto:psullivan3070@gmail.com) for more info.
- Archives Committee: Contact Chuck Carlson at [moedog97@aol.com](mailto:moedog97@aol.com) for more info.

# Crowdsourcing

The images below show an unidentified team from New York City in the 1920s. A descendent of two brothers who immigrated from Liverpool and played for the team, John and Billy Shortell, is looking for any information about the team. The studio that made the original image, possibly F.G. Siedlecki, was located at 67 East 7th Street in NYC. Contact [info@ussoccerhistory.org](mailto:info@ussoccerhistory.org) if you have any information



Founded in 1993, the Society for American Soccer History (SASH) works to promote, facilitate, and disseminate research into the rich history of soccer in the United States.

SASH is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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